

STEP 4: TAKE ACTION

Divide the class/group into four groups **WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE, INTEGRATE**. Provide each group an explanation of one action step to accompany migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (use the info from What Does the Church Say or find printouts on DiscoverYourNeighbor.org).

INSTRUCT each group to find a news story about migration and **DEVELOP A PLAN** which could be used to accompany the people in the story.

Examples:

1. Welcome: Invite guest speakers, such as refugees to tell their stories or immigration lawyers to learn more about immigration laws.
2. Protect: Develop ideas of how to help create safe places for kids to be treated with kindness.
3. Promote: Form a group to host a reading group for children learning English.
4. Integrate: Create ideas of how to include migrants and refugees in your school and church communities.

PRESENT: Have each group present their topic and plan to the class. Encourage them to be creative in their presentations. **DISCUSS** as a group if you would like to **CHOOSE** one of these plans to **IMPLEMENT** together.

RAISE YOUR VOICE

We all have a choice to be driven by love or be driven by fear. Start a movement by making buttons, signs, and use social media to encourage others to be driven by love. Begin in your classrooms, youth groups, and families and then move out to the community. Brainstorm ways you might respond in love. Pick one to commit to. Gently remind each other when you respond in unloving ways. Spread the word and share what you are doing with us on DiscoverYourNeighbor.org.

A Filipino migrant worker at the Ugnayan Migrant Shelter run by Maryknoll Fr. Tajonera in Tawain. (Nile Sprague/Taiwan)



BE A GLOBAL NEIGHBOR

Did you know that Maryknoll missionaries accompany migrants all over the world? Fr. Mike Bassano works in a United Nations camp in South Sudan where many people are displaced by war. He helps the 28,000 people in the camp by giving encouragement and support as they are faced with difficulties like hunger. Visit DiscoverYourNeighbor.org to learn of his work and how you, your class, and your family can make a difference.

ENGAGE YOUR FAMILY

WATCH Pope Francis' Video on the four action steps for migration. **DISCUSS:** What was most impactful in this video for you? As a family how can we be motivated and driven by love to take a least one of these action steps? (Visit DiscoverYourNeighbor.org for suggestions). **MAKE A PLAN** of what you will do next.

MIGRATION

DRIVEN BY LOVE

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Filipino migrant workers participate in a procession honoring the Virgin Mary in Taichung, Taiwan. (Nile Sprague/Taiwan)

OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to: **EXPLAIN** and give examples of why people leave their homes and seek refuge in new lands. **UNDERSTAND** ways our faith calls us to respond in love to the current realities of migration. **DEVELOP A PLAN** that illustrates how one can support migrants in the communities where the students live. **APPLY** what has been learned by doing presentations, skits or projects. *Learn more at DiscoverYourNeighbor.org*

STEP 1: PRAY

Emmanuel-God With Us

Loving God, during this Advent Season, help us to:

- Be with the migrant who is fleeing violence to seek safety in a new land.
- Be with the refugee who hungers for enough to eat in an overcrowded camp.
- Be with the teenager leaving home to work in a factory for unjust wages.
- Be with those receiving so many people who are in search of safety, food, and opportunity.
- Be with us so we may open our hearts and respond to others in love and compassion.

Amen

FAITH PERSPECTIVE

Once a week Maryknoll Sister Lelia Mattingly passes through the security checkpoint of the U.S. Immigration Detention Center in El Paso to visit Rosa, a 63-year-old grandmother from Honduras. Rosa raised her granddaughter, Yaneth, in a loving home in Honduras. When Yaneth turned 15, Rosa became very fearful for her granddaughter's safety because a gang leader came looking for her and wanted to force Yaneth to be his wife. Both the lives of Rosa and Yaneth were threatened if she refused the marriage. Frightened and seeing no other option, Rosa sold everything she

could in order to have the funds to start the long journey to the United States. It took almost a month of traveling by foot and on hot, overcrowded buses, risking being robbed--or worse--on the journey. When the two reached the U.S. Border, they presented themselves and asked for asylum.

During this Advent Season, Sr. Lelia is reminded of Pope Francis' words, "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ."

NEIGHBOR FOCUS

Imagine that you see an ad that says "Help Wanted"- jobs in factories, construction, households, and fishing boats. Hours: 12-15 hours a day; must leave your home country; working conditions-poor; pay below minimum wage.

Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers have answered ads like this in order to find work in Taiwan, many of them young adults, coming from places where they cannot find employment. They pay thousands of dollars to people called "brokers" to help

them get these often dangerous and difficult jobs.

Maryknoll Father Joyalito Tajonera, who works to help migrants like these in Taiwan explains, "People are not running away from country or family. They are being forced by economics; because of their love for family, they are being forced by the situation to go out and find jobs to support their family." Read more about Fr. Joyalito's ministry at DiscoverYourNeighbor.org.

STEP 3: EXPLORE SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

STEP 2: MAKE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

READ the *FAITH PERSPECTIVE* article as a class/group.

DISCUSS: Around the world, the majority of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers are compelled to leave their homes out of a sense of desperation. They are seeking safety, food, shelter, work, and peace. Based on the Faith Perspective article, Why do you think Sr. Lelia visits the detention center? Have you or someone you know left their homeland? What were the reasons? What was the experience like?

READ *NEIGHBOR FOCUS* article. **DISCUSS WITH A PARTNER:** Recall or draw a picture of a time when you sacrificed something for someone you care about. Tell the story to your partner. What motivated you? Consider: were you driven by love to make this sacrifice? Imagine that you were Rosa or Yanneth or someone you

know of and were forced by a situation to migrate as Fr. Joyalito describes, what do you imagine would be most difficult for you? What would you have to leave behind? How has God shown love and sacrifice to the world? To you? "How might God be driving you to respond in love to immigrants in your community? Is God asking you to sacrifice something out of love for them?"

EXTENSION: What do you think it means to be a missionary disciple? **CREATE** a "Help Wanted" ad for someone your age whose job is to respond to the needs of migrants in a Christian way. What personal qualities are needed for the job? What are the hours? Where will this job be done? What are the benefits? **AS A CLASS** share your ads. Make a list of the ways young people can respond. Is there one response you would like to do as a group or an individual? Do it!

READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 3:7-10 Exodus 23:9

LIFE OF JESUS: Matthew 2:12-23

CHRISTIAN LIVING: Hebrews 13:1-3

REFLECT: What does this passage say about how to treat someone who is a stranger or foreigner? How might you apply this passage in your life, the life of your school, or the life of your community?

SHARE WITH A PARTNER: Who in your life has shown you love? How did they show you this love? **SHARE AS LARGE GROUP:**

On large paper make two columns and label the first **WHO** and the second **HOW**. Invite partners to share.

Record responses. What have we learned about love from this exercise?

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY?

We are called to accompany those who are fleeing their countries in search of a better life, far away from poverty and exploitation. The following four ideas from Pope Francis explain the church's teaching on migration.

1. WELCOME: Find ways to get to know the stories of refugees and migrants in your area.

2. PROTECT: Defend the dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and prevent their exploitation.

3. PROMOTE: Support the human development of migrants and refugees, especially children and young people.

4. INTEGRATE: Allow refugees and migrants to participate fully in the life of the community that welcomes them.

*Adapted from Pope Francis message
January 1, 2018*

